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1899-03-22

Letter from Warren Olney to Binger Harmann, 1899 Mar 22.

Warren Olney

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March 22,

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HON BINGER HERMANN,

Commissioner of General Land Office,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter, addressed to Mr. Muir and myself as President and Vice-President of the Sierra Club, received. On behalf of all public spirited citizens of California, interested in the preservation of the forests, I desire to thank you for your action and the interest you have taken in the matter. I send your letter to Mr. Muir by this mail, and have no doubt that he joins with me in this expression of thanks.

It is extremely hard to get our people to actively ^{enlist} interest themselves in anything not immediately involving their personal interests, and therefore the owners of sheep in this State have heretofore met with little resistance in their encroachments upon the public domain. There are really no two sides to the question presented as to whether, in our arid climate, the pasturing of sheep in the forests of the mountains is injurious. The mischief done is so apparent that such folderol as is contained in the letter from Mr. L. J. Miller, referred to by you, has become a common argument among those who desire to feed their stock at the public expense. Men who ought to be above urging such a reason have gravely argued the point with me. Nobody, however, but a party in interest, will advocate any such notion.

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I had a call the other day from Superintendent Newhall, and he stated that the lines of the Tahoe reservation had been agreed upon and that the President's proclamation would soon be issued. I hope he is correctly informed on the subject. The Tahoe reservation is of more interest to the average California citizen who loves to spend a vacation in the mountains, than any of our other reservations, Yosemite alone excepted.

Yours truly,

Warren Olney